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News from Local Congregations

Churches Respond to Back Bay Mission Work Camp

The churches of the Southeast Conference have pulled together to assemble a work crew of 30 people to work for a week at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS at the beginning of December. This work camp is intended to be the first of a series. We hope in 2010 to have a work camp going to New Orleans. Our thanks to our churches that have pulled together for this important mission: **Pleasant Hill Community UCC**, TN (11 team members); **Holy Trinity Community UCC**, Nashville (8); **First Congregational UCC**, Atlanta (5); **Church of the Savior**, UCC Knoxville (1); **First Congregational Christian UCC**, Montgomery (1); **Open Community Korean UCC**, Atlanta (1).

Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville Prepares to Assume Mortgage from the Conference

Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville will assume the mortgage on its building from the Southeast Conference. When the congregation affiliated with the United Church of Christ, it was a church of less than 100 members. The Southeast Conference believed that given their gifted pastoral and lay leadership the church would grow rapidly, and was willing to purchase a building for the church, and then rent it to them. Further, the church was too new to the United Church of Christ to be eligible for a loan from the Church Building and Loan Fund of the Local Church Ministries of the UCC. Given the dramatic growth of the church to more than 400 members in the last few years, the step in faith that the conference took in securing the loan has been more than justified. We have begun the process of transferring the loan to the church, with deep appreciation for their leadership, their generosity, and their commitment.

Shalom Center Hosts an Interfaith Conversation, October 23-24

Pleasant Hill Community UCC sponsors the Shalom Center for Continuing Education, which is hosting an interfaith conversation among a UCC minister, a rabbi and a Sufi sheikh. Calling themselves "The Three Amigos," they come from Seattle, and will lead a conversation in interfaith relationships, the problems and possibilities. Starting on the evening of Friday, October 23, the event will adjourn at 3 p.m. Saturday afternoon. The registration is limited, and the deadline to register is October 15. Cost is \$10.00, including materials and meals. A registration form can be requested by emailing veronicaphcc@frontier.com.

Flooding in the Atlanta Area

Many have asked whether our congregations or members have been affected by the recent flooding in the Atlanta area. After polling our churches, we have found that we have been spared damage from the floods.

Posted on October 2, 2009



Rush Memorial UCC, Atlanta, celebrated its 96th Anniversary with a ground breaking ceremony on August 23 for a fellowship hall to be named for a beloved previous pastor, Joseph Boone. They have secured financing from the UCC Cornerstone Fund.

Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta, has begun a building to expand their sanctuary to accommodate their recent growth.



Listen to the 2008 Podcasts with leaders

making a difference in the UCC.

Theology Among the People



Check out our Lay Theology Program called "TAP", Theology Among the People. [Click here.](#)



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Stay in touch with the work of our national Justice and Witness ministry. Click [here](#) to support this ministry.

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www.ucc.org

First Congregational UCC, Atlanta, is about to embark on the next step of their building campaign, with a plan to completely restore the original building, and to improve the community building as an office suite and for class room space. They are also pleased to announce on **September 20 at 11:00** brilliant saxophonist and now seminarian **Kirk Whalum** will be our guest preacher and performer. All are invited!

Church of the Savior, Knoxville, is about to begin a series of capital improvements to expand their office and program space, with a loan from the Cornerstone Fund.

Beloved Community UCC, Birmingham reports that "fifteen members from Pilgrim UCC in Durham NC travelled to Birmingham, to do a civil rights tour and to help Beloved for 5 days! They landscaped, bought and installed planters and benches, bought us a weed eater and used it around our grounds, painted inside and out, helped us canvass 500 homes and organize a Neighborhood Open House and Ice Cream Social. It was an amazing act of generosity!"

First UCC, Belvidere, TN, pastor **Diantha Brown** celebrated Homecoming on August 9th by inviting their recent short term interim pastor **Chrissy Bonner** to preach.

--**UCC affiliated Fisk University** has entered collaboration with Vanderbilt University that is poised to become the nation's top source of Ph.D.s in physics and astronomy awarded to underrepresented minorities has received a major boost from three federal grants totaling \$3.7 million. "We are pleased to receive this federal support for Fisk, Vanderbilt and Delaware State students which reflects the quality of our existing programs," said Fisk President Hazel R. O'Leary.

Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville, is about to start a second TAP class, and has 18 member who have expressed an interest!



We received word that **Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC**, received a grant from the NiN offering of the United Church of Christ, to promote a community garden to improve nutrition in low income communities.

Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville, walked for health care reform following worship on Sunday, August 23. Folks ages from 3 months old to 80 participate. Next step is to meet with our congressman and let him know our feelings. Pictures are at www.webshots.com.

Celebrating their common covenant in the UCC, **Virginia-Highland Church (A UCC and Baptist congregation)** and **Kirkwood UCC**, a new church start, both in Atlanta, shared worship and communion on August 23rd, followed by a pot luck lunch. Interim Pastor **Chris Glaser** of Virginia-Highland preached.

Posted on September 14, 2009

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